

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for managing the transition between a ring event and a span event in a telecommunications network with a ring topology protected by a traffic protection mechanism in which signals arranged as ~~bytes~~ byte frames are transmitted, ~~said ring network comprising by~~ nodes or network elements; ~~and via~~ spans of optical fibers, ~~said optical fiber spans~~ connecting the network elements to form working channels and protection channels, the method comprising: ~~the step, performed by the nodes adjacent to the ring failure, of~~ sending suitable ring failure signals by the nodes or network elements adjacent to a ring failure; signalings and wherein it further comprises the steps of verifying that the protection channels have been restored; ~~in the case where the verification is positive, maintaining the protection corresponding to~~ for a ring event, for a predetermined time, when the verification is positive; and ~~once such predetermined time has elapsed, managing the ring event, as a span event, after~~ said predetermined time.

2. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said step of~~ in maintaining the protection ~~corresponding to~~ for a said ring event for a said predetermined time,

~~comprises the step, performed by the node adjacent to the ring event, that sees the ring event on the working channels, of activating~~ activates a timer inside ~~it~~ of said node.

3. (currently amended): The method according to claim 2, wherein ~~the step of~~ managing the ring event, as a span event, is not started ~~not~~ before the expiration of said timer.

4. (currently amended): A ring network element capable of managing the transition between a ring event and a span event in a telecommunications network with a ring topology protected by a traffic protection mechanism in which signals arranged as ~~bytes~~ byte frames are transmitted, said ring network comprising:

nodes or network elements; and

spans of optical fibers, ~~said optical fiber spans~~ connecting the nodes or network elements to form a ~~the ring and comprising network via~~ working channels and protection channels, wherein the nodes or network elements further comprise:

means for generating and sending suitable ring failure signals;

means for verifying that the protection channels have been restored;

means for maintaining the protection for the ring event, for a

predetermined time, when the verification is positive; and

means for managing the ring event, as a span event, after said predetermined time.

~~the network element comprising means for generating and sending suitable ring failure signalings and wherein it further comprises:~~

~~means for verifying that the protection channels have been restored;~~

~~means for maintaining the protection corresponding to a ring event for a predetermined
time in the case where the verification is positive; and~~

~~means for managing the event as a span event once such predetermined time has elapsed.~~

5. (currently amended): The network element according to claim 4, wherein said means for maintaining the protection ~~corresponding to a~~ for the ring event, for a ~~said~~ predetermined time, comprises a timer inside the network element.

6. (currently amended): A computer program comprising computer program code means adapted to carry out ~~all the steps of the method according to~~ any one of claims 1 to 3 when said program is run on a computer.

7. (currently amended): A computer-readable medium having a program recorded thereon, said computer-readable medium comprising program code means adapted to carry out ~~all the steps of the method according to~~ any one of claims 1 to 3 when said program is run in a computer.